



Newsletter # 1, March 19, 1999

Green light or red light...it's up to you !

Red light or green light... You should read it!

This is the very first issue of the *Red light or green light...* newsletter.

The newsletter will be our way of reaching the people, businesses and associations affected by the **Act respecting owners and operators of heavy vehicles**.

This Act, passed on June 19, 1998, introduces a new administrative framework for the use of heavy vehicles on Québec highways. From now on, heavy vehicle road transportation will be subject to a mode of management of road use privileges that aims to continuously improve road safety and preserve the integrity of the road network.

In addition to making registration in the register of heavy vehicle owners and operators compulsory as of April 1, 1999, the Act provides for monitoring and evaluation of the performance of owners and operators on-road and off-road and imposes sanctions on those whose conduct is found to be unsatisfactory.

The ministère des Transports, the Commission des transports and the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec invite you to read the first issue of this newsletter.

WE HOPE IT PROVES USEFUL

LAST REMINDER BEFORE APRIL 1

Now is the time to enter your name in the **Register of owners and operators of heavy vehicles**, if you haven't already done so. As of April 1, 1999, you must be registered with the Commission des transports du Québec before you can travel on Québec highways.

If you have already registered, congratulations! If not, you will have to fill out the registration application form and return it with the required fees. **Act promptly so that you can avoid any last minute inconvenience.**

Who must be entered in the Register?

Heavy vehicle owners and operators must register with the Commission des transports.

However, the following persons have been exempted from registration:

- *Individuals who own or lease house trailers, motor homes or travel trailers used for purposes that are not commercial or professional.*
- *Owners and operators that use a heavy vehicle for emergency measures in the event of disaster.*
- *Lessors (financing of vehicles).*

Vehicles covered by the Act:

- Road vehicles, including trailers and semi-trailers, with a net mass over 3000 kg.
- Tow trucks, buses and minibuses, regardless of their net mass;
- Road vehicles used for the transport of dangerous goods, regardless of their net mass.

Special mobile equipment vehicles with the following three characteristics are exempted:

- *They are not mounted on a truck chassis.*
- *They are designed to perform work.*
- *Their work station is an integral part of the cab..*

Act respecting owners and operators of heavy vehicles

New exemptions

The ministère des Transports, the Commission des transports and the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec all agree to exempt certain vehicles from the application of the Act.

Vehicles exempted

Exempted from the application of the Act are combinations of road vehicles whose total net mass is over 3000 kg but each vehicle of which weighs less than 3000 kg, and combinations of vehicles composed of a trailer or a semi-trailer whose overall length, including the hitch system of the trailer or semi-trailer, is 10 metres or less.

For example, a combination of vehicles composed of a pick-up truck of 2500 kg and a trailer of 900 kg, and 10.1 metres in length is a combination of vehicles covered by the Act.

However, this exemption does not apply to combinations of road vehicles subject to the Transportation of Dangerous goods Regulation.

Also exempt from the application of the Act are:

- Farm tractors, farm machinery and farm trailers (owned by a farmer).
- Road vehicles whose net mass is 3000 kg or less, transporting dangerous goods in quantities requiring the use of placards.

People exempted

Partner organizations have also agreed to exempt the following persons from registration in the Register of owners and operators of heavy vehicles:

- Individuals who use a heavy vehicle for personal purposes, i.e. for purposes other than commercial or professional ones.
- People who lease a heavy vehicle for less than 15 days and who are not subject to a sanction imposed by the Commission des transports which prohibits them from operating a heavy vehicle. *However, people who lease a heavy vehicle in order to transport persons or goods for remuneration must comply with the Act.*
- owners of heavy vehicles not plated in Québec and who are not considered operators within the meaning of the Act.

For example:

- A lessor of heavy vehicles outside Québec.
- An owner-operator whose vehicle is plated outside Québec does not have to register as an owner if acting as a subcontractor under the responsibility of an operator (e.g. an owner-operator that is an American subcontractor). *See note.*
- An owner of a vehicle whose PRP registration has been issued by a jurisdiction other than Québec is not required to Register (e.g. an owner-operator that is an Ontario subcontractor.) *See note.*

However, subcontractors must register as operators if they organize their own transportation.

Note: In such a situation, it is to the subcontractor's advantage to have with him documents proving that he is a subcontractor (for example: a service contract with an operator).

Need assistance or information?

Do you need help filling out the registration form? Would you like more information on an aspect of the use of a heavy vehicle in Québec?

Give us a call or visit our Internet sites:

Commission des transports du Québec

(418) 643-5694 (514) 873-6424 1 888 461-2433

Internet: www.ctq.gouv.qc.ca

Ministère des transports du Québec

(418) 643-6864 (514) 873-2605

Internet: www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca

Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec

(418) 643-7620 (514) 873-7620 800 361-7620

Internet: www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca

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Ce bulletin d'information est également disponible en français.